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Dkt. 68883/RSM

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Joel THOMSON  
Serial No. : 10/764,760 Examiner : P. Butler  
Filed : January 26, 2004 Art Unit : 1732  
For : DEVICES AND METHODS FOR MAXIMIZING PURGE  
EFFECTIVENESS FOR MOLDING MACHINES

1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
October 10, 2007

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR:

**COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE  
TO A SEPTEMBER 24, 2007 OFFICE ACTION**

This Communication is submitted in response to the September 24, 2007 Office Action which was issued in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Office Action is due October 24, 2007. Accordingly, this Communication is being submitted timely.

The Office Action requires an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following alleged groups:

- Group I - Claims 1-15, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 425, subclass 574;
- Group II - Claims 16 and 17, drawn to a method of operating an apparatus, classified in class 264, subclass 211.21;

or

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Group III- Claims 18-20, drawn to a method of cleaning an apparatus, classified in class 264, subclass 39.

The Office Action states that: (1) the inventions of Groups I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice; (2) the inventions of Groups I and III are related as process and apparatus for its practice; and (3) the inventions of Groups II and III are directed to related processes involving screw machinery. More specifically, the Office Action states that: (1) the apparatus can also be used for exclusive one-way flow in addition to the recited method of Group II; (2) the apparatus can also be used for cleaning by switching to a second material in addition to recited method of Group III; and (3) the recited method of Group II uses only one material whereas the recited method of Group III changes materials. The Office Action concludes that because of these possibilities the inventions: (1) are distinct; and (2) require different fields of search which would be a serious burden on the Examiner.

In response to this election requirement, applicant hereby elects to prosecute the alleged separate invention of Group I, that is, claims 1-15.

In view of the remarks above, applicant respectfully submits that this Communication responding to the restriction requirement is complete.

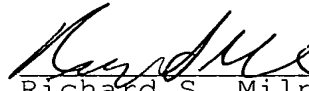
Applicant looks forward to a favorable action on the merits.

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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

No fees are deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if any other fees are required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fees to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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 10/26/2007  
Richard S. Milner Date  
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